

# DRUG ARRESTS & VIOLENT TRENDS

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Local Law  
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# Drug Arrests and Violent Crime Trends

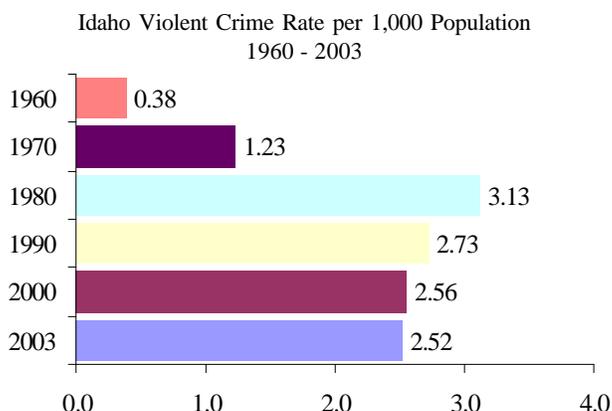
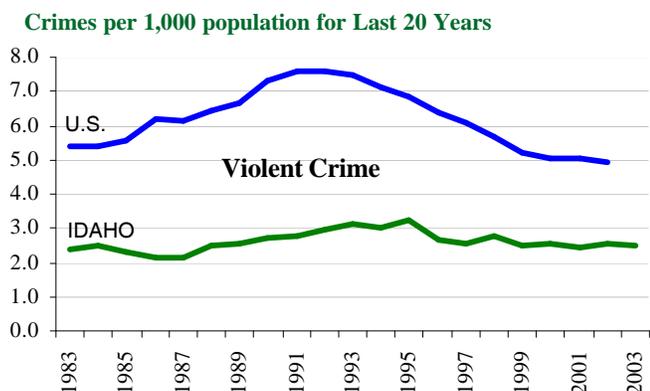
The State of Idaho, as well as the United States, is experiencing the longest period of decline in violent crime rates since the early 1960s. Violent crime results from counts of the combination of murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. This decline in the crime rate coincides with times of economic prosperity; low unemployment, higher income levels, etcetera.

In contrast to violent crime, drug use, possession, trafficking, and manufacturing (as reflected by drug arrests) increased substantially during the last decade. This sharp increase in drug arrests may have resulted from local, state, and national allocation of significant resources devoted to combat, treat, and prevent drug use<sup>1</sup>. In particular, Idaho's increase in drug/narcotics and drug equipment violations and related number of arrests is attributable to tougher criminal laws implemented during the last decade and to the rising demand for these illegal substances.

The crime information presented in this report is based on the *Crime in Idaho* series<sup>2</sup>, published by the Bureau of Criminal Identification of the Idaho State Police, *Crime in the United States* series<sup>3</sup> by the U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and data obtained directly from the UCR/NIBRS State Data Repository.

Total violent crime for the nation has fallen about 8% from 1983 to 2002, while the Idaho rate increased by 7.8% during the same period. Despite this 20-year rate increase in Idaho, Idahoans experience less than one-half of total violent crime than the rest of the States combined.

The forty-three year trend for the State shows a sharp increase from 1960 to 1970, reaching the highest in 1980 then stabilizing and slowly declining again in 1990 and 2000. The reported violent crime in 2003 in Idaho is 6.6 times more than it was in 1960.

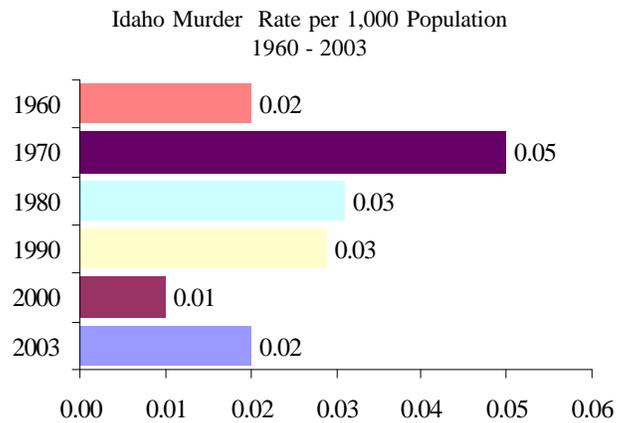


<sup>1</sup> Crime and Justice Atlas 2001 Update. U.S. Department of Justice. <sup>2</sup> Crime in Idaho Books series. Idaho State Police. <sup>3</sup> Crime in the United States, series. FBI, U.S. Department of Justice. Other Data Sources: Census Bureau ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)) and Bureau of Justice Statistics ([bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/Crime.cfm](http://bjsdata.ojp.usdoj.gov/dataonline/Search/Crime/Crime.cfm))

## Murder

For the last 20 years, the nation's murder rate decreased 32%, similarly but of lesser magnitude was Idaho's rate decline of 14%. More recently, from 2002 to 2003 the Idaho rate declined 33%. The Idaho rate remains 46% below the national rate and at the same level in 2003 as it was in 1960.

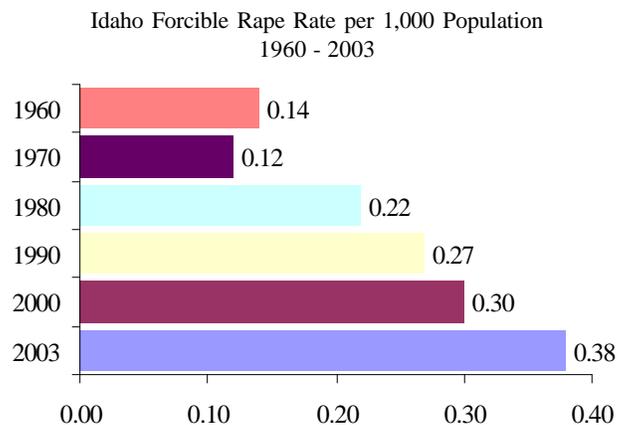
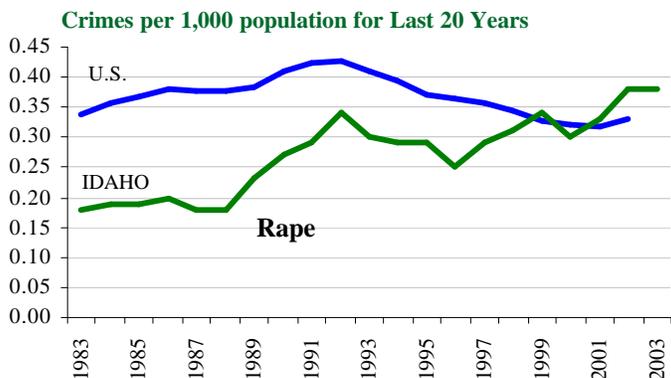
Comparatively, the odds of being murdered in Idaho remain less than one-half of those of the nation; this implies that while there were 2.2 murders somewhere in the nation there was only one in Idaho.



## Rape

Forcible rape rate for the nation has fallen 2.4% over the past 20 years. For Idaho the rate has more than doubled during the same period, yielding over a 110% increase. From all types of violent crime offenses, forcible rape in Idaho is the only crime that defies national trends.

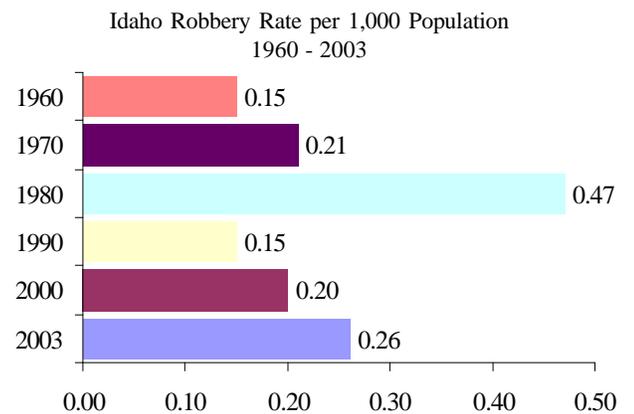
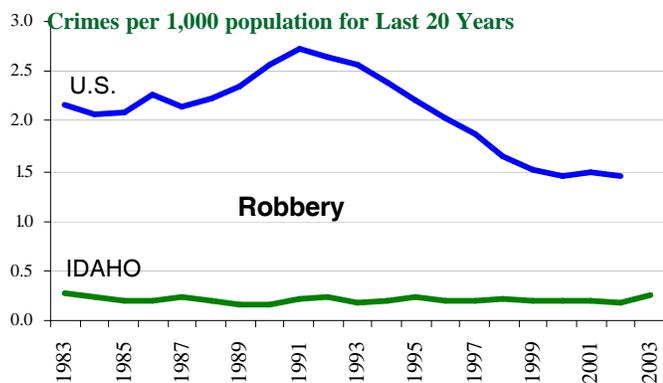
The victimization rate for rape in 2002, unchanged in 2003, reflects 1 rape for every 2,630 Idahoans. This rate is greater than that of the nation at 1 rape for every 3,030 persons. Similarly, the latest data reflects 2.7 times more reported rape in 2003 than total rape reported in 1960.



## Robbery

For the last 20 years the trend for robbery experienced a 33% decrease in both Idaho and the nation. While the nation's rate sharply peaked in 1991, it also rapidly declined to new 20-year lows in 2000, consistently remaining more than 6 times higher than the rate in Idaho. This is equivalent to say that for the year 2002, one of 5,550 Idahoans reported a robbery victimization. A lot smaller rate than one person for every 685 living elsewhere in the nation.

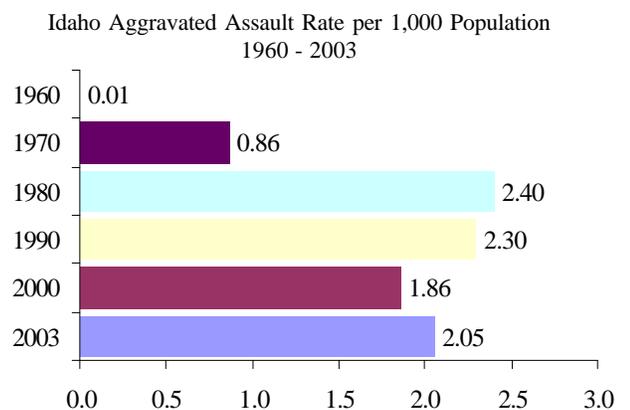
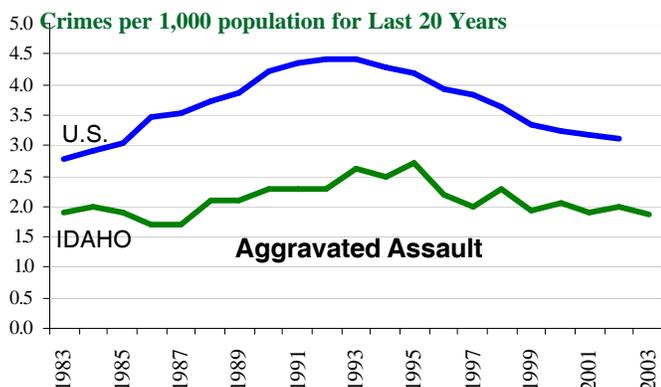
From 1960 to 1980, robbery in Idaho increased more than three times and posteriorly declined in 1990 to a rate identical to that in 1960. However, from 1990 to 2003 the rate has almost doubled, but still remains 45% below what it was in 1980.



## Aggravated Assault

The rates for aggravated assault in Idaho remained consistently below the national rates, increasing and decreasing in a more or less synchronized trend. However, the Idaho rate is estimated to be 40% below that of the national rate.

In 1960, reported aggravated assault was almost negligible. The reporting of this crime sharply increased in 1970 and 1980. In 2003, the rate reflects about 200 times more aggravated assault than what it was reported in 1960.



## Drug Arrests Trends

Drug arrests may vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction based on differing enforcement strategies and the impact of local, state or national policies. However, arrests are often considered by society as the primary gauge of law enforcement's response to crime<sup>3</sup>. When it comes to drugs, Idaho law enforcement has dealt with an increasing amount of drug related offenses over the years. The levels of enforcement for drug related incidence are similar in trend behavior but larger in magnitude than those of domestic violence (Table 1), but are just under the trend levels of burglary related offending. As deducted from Table 1, when combining drug equipment violations with drug/narcotics into a single category, the level of total drug related offending surpasses total burglary rates.

In the State of Idaho during the year 2000, drug arrests reached maximum level at 6.7 arrests per every 1,000 persons and remained consistently high from 2001 to 2003.

Drug related offending over the years has had little variation; most arrests have primarily been for possession of marijuana. During the late 1990s and early 2000s methamphetamine began appearing as the second most important drug as quantified by the number of arrests. Cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, LSD, and other drugs were least significant contributors to arrests.

Table 1. Crime Rates per 1,000 Population

Type of Crime or Arrest	Crime Rates (per 1,000 Population)								Percent Change 2002/2003
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	2.20	2.00	2.30	1.93	2.05	1.91	1.98	1.86	-6.1%
<b>Murder</b>	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.03	0.02	-26.3%
<b>Rape</b>	0.25	0.29	0.31	0.34	0.30	0.33	0.38	0.38	0.0%
<b>Robbery</b>	0.20	0.19	0.21	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.18	0.26	44.4%
<b>Burglary</b>	6.90	7.30	6.70	5.90	5.38	5.53	5.54	6.29	13.6%
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	2.66	2.57	2.81	2.48	2.56	2.45	2.57	2.52	-1.9%
<b>Domestic Violence*</b>	4.38	4.84	4.68	4.29	4.36	4.47	4.42	4.56	3.2%
<b>Drug Equipment</b>	3.40	3.80	3.80	3.84	4.27	4.01	4.13	4.31	4.3%
<b>Drug/Narcotic Violations</b>	3.80	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.60	4.43	4.54	4.72	3.8%
<b>Total Drug Arrest Rate</b>	5.20	5.70	6.52	6.47	6.70	6.32	6.09	5.97	-2.0%
<b>Sworn Officers**</b>	1.81	1.89	1.87	1.89	1.90	1.86	1.90	1.86	-2.1%

\* Rate adjusted to include the relationships boyfriend/girlfriend and same sex couples. \*\* Rate Approximation  
 Note: The above rates for 2003 were forecasted based on linear population projections from 2000 to 2002. The Idaho population was estimated at 1,354,319 and rate adjustments may be recommended if the actual data projection from the census bureau is substantially different.

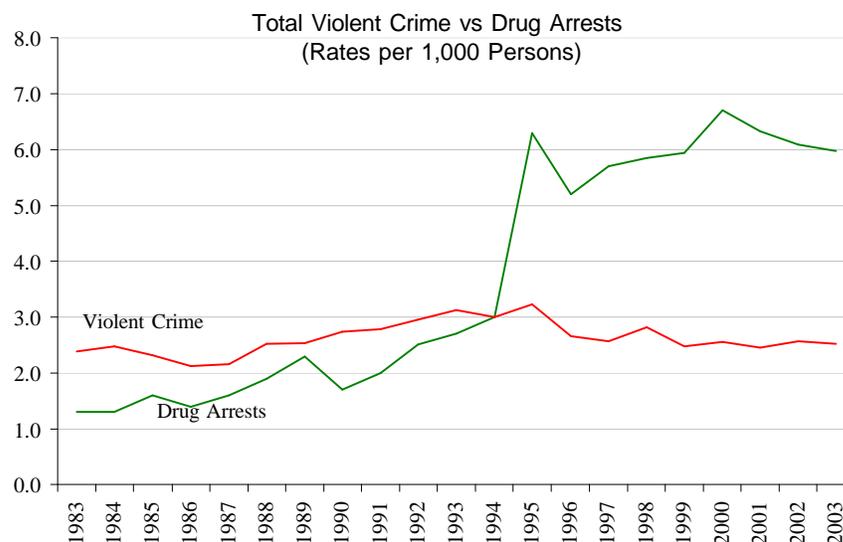
## Drug Arrests and Violent Crime

Total drug arrests rates show inverse correlation to rates of violent crime after the year 1995, as depicted by the chart below. Violent crime leveled off, or slightly decreased, as drug arrests reached all time highs in 1996. Part of the association among these two variables may be due to chance and is statistically insignificant as cause-effect.

It is believed that the trend for violent crime is affected by a multitude of factors, among which, drugs may play a more or less significant role. Consequently, if assuming that violent crime will be reduced by increasing drug enforcement, the odds for reducing/preventing one incident of violent crime would require about 3 drug arrests at the 2003 crime rate levels. Furthermore, the type of violent crime reduced would have a 73% chance to be an aggravated assault, 15% chance to prevent one rape, 10% chance to reduce one robbery, or less than 1% chance that the additional 3 drug arrests will reduce/prevent one murder. These odds of reducing/preventing one incident of violent crime from happening would necessarily need to be weighted by how much impact drugs have on violent crime; an unknown fact at this time.

Forcible rape is the only type of violent crime with significant correlation\* to drug arrests. As the availability of drugs increases, so does the potential for rape. Empirical forecasting indicates that if drug arrests are taken at face value for drug use or drug availability and are not subjected to discretionary law enforcement practices, then reducing the drug market will tentatively reflect a reduction of rapes.

Another category of criminal behavior related to drug arrests is domestic violence. Increasing numbers of drug arrests appear to positively affect the trend\*\* of domestic violence; responding inversely to increases of drug arrests. Even when the trend of domestic violence declines at increases of drug arrests, the connection between the two lacks statistical relevance.



\*Rape:  $r = .786$ ,  $p = 0.000$ , (logarithmic transformation). \*\*Domestic Violence:  $r = -.205$ ,  $p = \text{insignificant}$

## Drug Arrests Characteristics

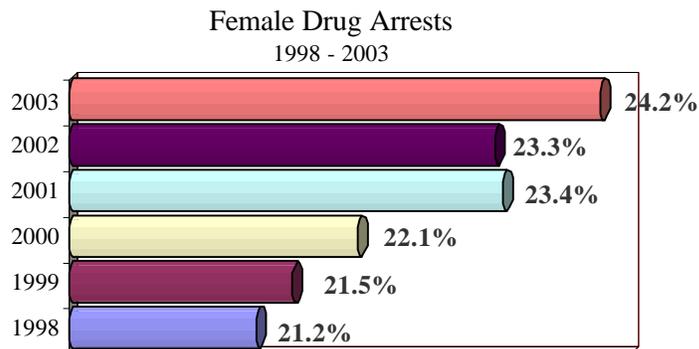
In 2003, approximately 1 person out of every 230 citizens in the State of Idaho was arrested for drug related violations. This represents a sharp increase from 1 drug arrest for about every 500 persons at the beginning of the 1990s.

### Age

The typical drug arrestee for the last six years has averaged 26.6 years old and ranged between 10 and 65 (few were 8 and 9 or 66 to 98). More than 50% of all arrestees were under 23.

### Gender

The number of females arrested for drug violations has increased over the last six years from 21% in 1998 to 24% in 2003 while male arrests decreased 3% over the same period.



### Juvenile Drug Arrests

The juvenile male arrests decreased 23.7% from 1998 to 2003 while the juvenile female arrestees decreased 20.9%. Over this six-year period, the trend for female juveniles showed consistent increases up to the year 2001. For the first time in years, the juvenile female offenders experienced two consecutive arrest rate declines in 2002 and 2003.

Overall, 10 to 17 year olds have shown consistent declines in total drug arrests. This may imply that juveniles are either committing less drug violations, have shifted drug preferences and/or drug enforcement isn't as strict for juveniles as it is for adults.

### Adult Drug Arrests

Adults continue to commit more drug violations year after year. However, females are major contributors to this increase. While adult males arrested on drug charges increased a little over 2% within the last six years, adult females arrested on drug charges increased more than 24%.

### Race and Ethnicity

Approximately 96% of individuals for drug violations were white. By ethnicity, Hispanics as compared to non-hispanics revealed continuous rate increases; from 8.1% in 1998 to 10.6% in 2003.

### Firearms

From 1998 to 2003, only 3% of all persons arrested for a drug offense were in possession of any type of weapon. For this same period, drug arrestees showed 23% decrease in possession of firearms but 9% increase in the possession of other type of weapons like lethal cutting instruments, blunt objects, etcetera. About 5 of

every 200 drug arrestees were in possession of some type of weapon. Adults were more likely than juveniles to be found with a firearm at the time of arrest.

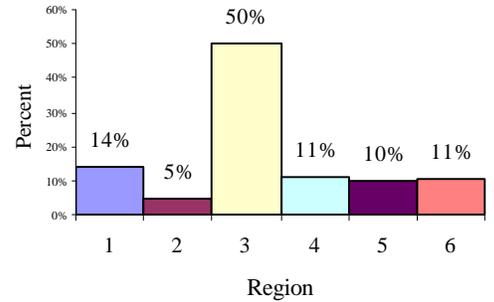
## Drug Arrestees by Type of Drug

### Marijuana

Marijuana continues to be the drug of choice among Idaho drug users. However, the proportion of people arrested for drug violations related to marijuana decreased by 1% from 1998 to 2003.

The typical marijuana arrestee was male (82%), on average 25.5 years old (although more than 50% were under the age of 22).

Marijuana Arrests (1998-2003)

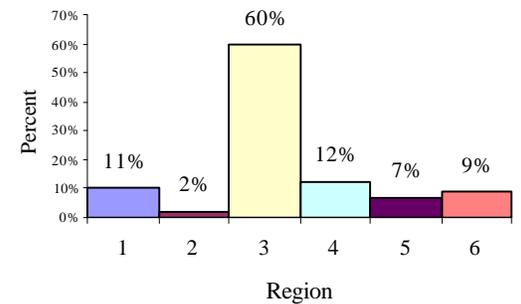


### Methamphetamine

The methamphetamine drug arrests increased less than 1% from 2002 to 2003. Over the last six years they remained fairly consistent at around 2,000 arrests per year, depicting only a 5% increase.

The meth arrestee was male 71% of the time, on average 30.6 years old (however 86% were between age 18 and 42). The age group 45-54 accounted for 3.2 times more female than male arrests.

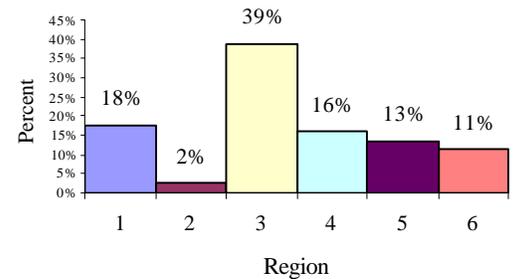
Methamphetamine Arrests (1998-2003)



### Combination Marijuana and Methamphetamine Arrests

The number of people arrested for drug violations related to both marijuana and methamphetamine remained fairly proportional since 1998 to 2001. However in 2003, the arrests involving the combination of these drugs increased 4% from 2002.

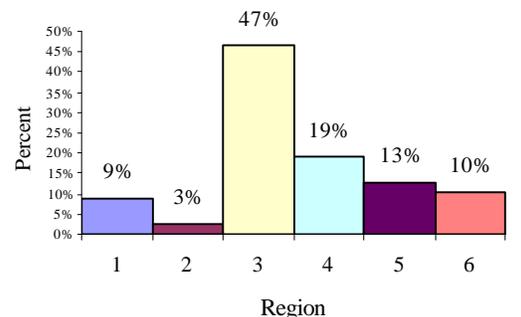
Combination Meth & Marijuana Arrests (1998-2003)



### Cocaine

Cocaine related arrests decreased almost 40% from 1998 to 2003. Females in 2003 accounted for 20% of all cocaine arrests, down from 26% in 1998. The age of the typical cocaine arrestee was similar to the age of those arrested for methamphetamine.

Cocaine Arrests (1998-2003)



### Arrests by Drug Type, Population & Region

The following charts reflect proportion of drug arrests by region, type of drug and percent of population.

Population 2003	
Region 1 = 13.6%	Region 4 = 12.3%
Region 2 = 7.4%	Region 5 = 11.6%
Region 3 = 42.5%	Region 6 = 12.6%

## Historical Arrests for Drug/Narcotics and Drug Equipment Violations by County

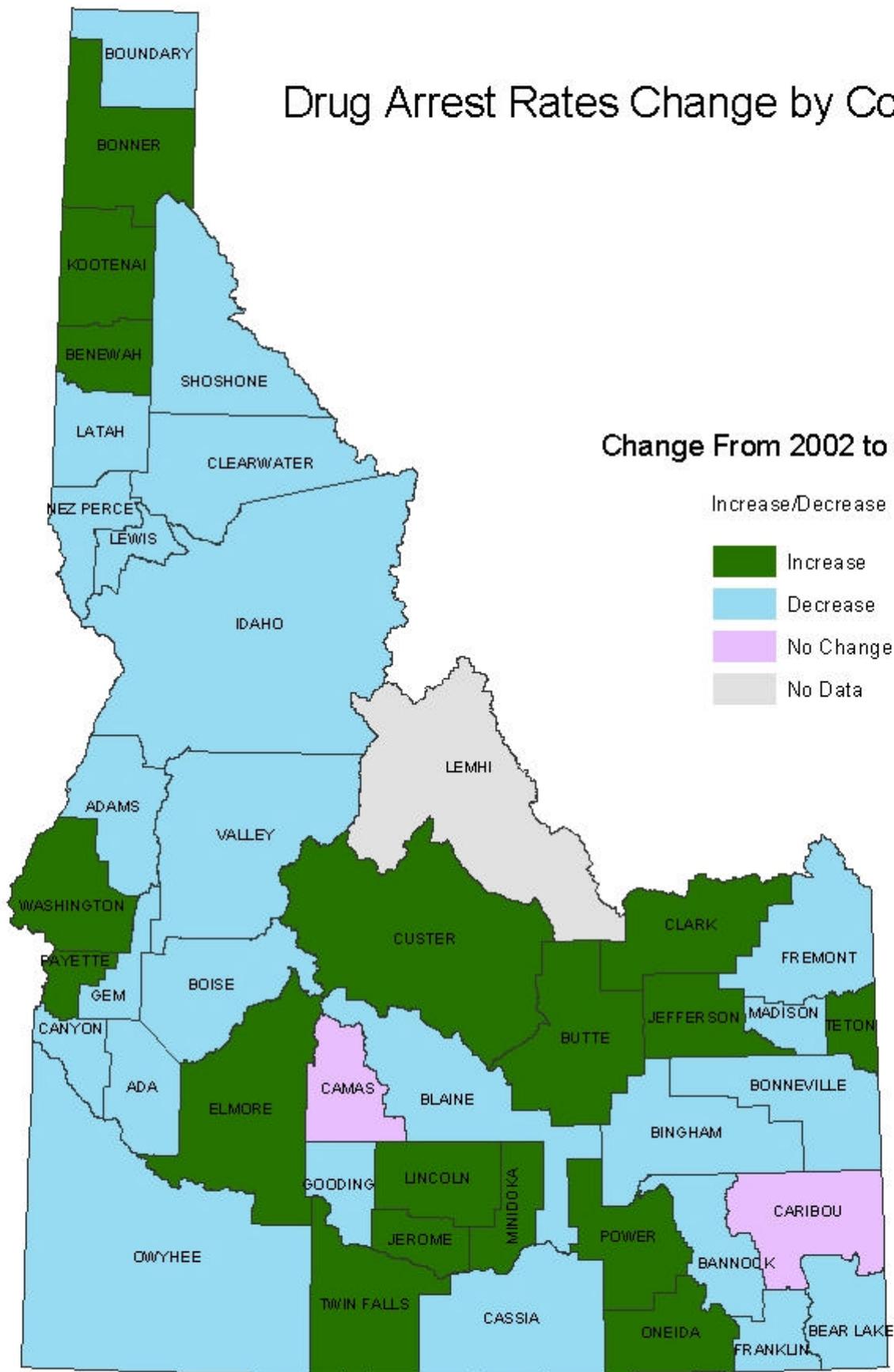
County	Total Drug Arrests (1996 to 2003)								Arrest Rate per 1,000		Rate Change	Rate Change Indicator
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002/2003	
Ada	2701	2924	2511	2477	2539	2424	1991	1847	6.2	5.6	-9.7%	(-)
Adams	36	18	38	36	17	5	14	6	4.1	1.8	-56.9%	(-)
Bannock	300	262	361	452	605	567	584	535	7.7	7.0	-8.6%	(-)
Bear Lake	1	5	1	5	3	11	1	---	0.2	---		(-)
Benewah	41	44	85	86	101	91	69	86	7.7	9.7	26.4%	+
Bingham	141	166	136	104	174	132	164	117	3.9	2.7	-29.3%	(-)
Blaine	118	110	108	108	120	109	102	100	5.0	4.8	-4.9%	(-)
Boise	---	54	25	31	35	69	41	2	5.8	0.3	-95.2%	(-)
Bonner	96	155	215	172	160	126	99	135	2.6	3.5	34.7%	+
Bonneville	412	451	506	547	569	514	618	506	7.3	5.9	-19.2%	(-)
Boundary	50	52	57	46	45	81	89	79	8.8	7.8	-11.8%	(-)
Butte	3	---	8	6	11	4	5	---	1.7	---		(-)
Camas	1	1	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---		No Change
Canyon	288	348	501	592	546	710	705	710	4.9	4.7	-3.3%	(-)
Caribou	56	72	90	162	149	98	107	107	14.6	14.6	0.0%	No Change
Cassia	32	66	63	81	69	106	115	112	5.3	5.1	-3.3%	(-)
Clark	1	3	---	3	1	---	---	9	---	9.3		+
Clearwater	30	26	15	30	32	38	28	25	3.3	3.0	-8.1%	(-)
Custer	4	9	12	7	6	2	10	11	2.4	2.7	12.0%	+
Elmore	125	63	83	77	86	84	91	96	3.1	3.2	4.8%	+
Franklin	28	26	47	18	38	12	26	22	2.2	1.9	-16.4%	(-)
Fremont	24	23	57	30	38	53	41	31	3.5	2.6	-24.6%	(-)
Gem	106	124	107	112	81	106	127	91	8.2	5.8	-29.1%	(-)
Gooding	21	28	36	41	24	30	27	22	1.9	1.5	-18.8%	(-)
Idaho	47	48	51	33	38	21	32	20	2.1	1.3	-37.2%	(-)
Jefferson	16	20	21	20	25	26	35	84	1.8	4.2	137.4%	+
Jerome	59	83	97	103	81	118	129	154	6.9	8.2	18.8%	+
Kootenai	528	583	631	568	625	622	680	792	6.0	6.8	14.3%	+
Latah	92	74	97	90	138	101	121	105	3.4	3.0	-13.7%	(-)
Lemhi	Lemhi County Began Reporting Crime Data in 2004											
Lewis	1	10	2	6	8	6	16	15	4.3	4.1	-5.0%	(-)
Lincoln	---	---	1	2	1	1	3	13	0.7	3.0	325.1%	+
Madison	50	36	67	69	94	117	122	74	4.4	2.7	-39.5%	(-)
Minidoka	32	44	58	77	77	87	64	89	3.3	4.7	41.9%	+
Nez Perce	196	213	181	245	230	281	216	185	5.8	5.0	-13.9%	(-)
Oneida	14	7	9	21	37	13	17	34	4.1	8.2	99.1%	+
Owyhee	20	20	22	22	40	28	42	40	3.9	3.6	-5.9%	(-)
Payette	115	191	174	142	166	153	137	193	6.5	9.1	39.7%	+
Power	19	26	42	15	40	43	17	24	2.3	3.3	42.2%	+
Shoshone	107	107	92	168	215	102	76	71	5.8	5.6	-4.3%	(-)
Teton	1	16	14	3	10	4	1	20	0.1	2.8	1797.6%	+
Twin Falls	207	311	460	331	332	304	400	507	6.1	7.7	25.9%	+
Valley	115	112	74	59	91	95	67	47	8.9	6.3	-29.5%	(-)
Washington	25	38	32	13	19	22	30	44	3.0	4.4	47.0%	+

**Arrest data from Idaho State Police not available at county level**

--- None or not reported



# Drug Arrest Rates Change by County



0 15 30 60 Miles

